

May 18, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Richard Wall Carriage House

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Barbara Duffy, Linda Foggie and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio members present were Earl Stamm and Bonnie Hay. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. Guests present were Morgan Berman of Milkcrate, Marvin Berman, Nancy Berman, Ed Buchannan, Leigh Altadonna and Janet Starwood. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ahrens called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. **Presentation on Milkcrate:** Morgan Berman introduced her free app called Milkcrate, which began as her master's thesis at Philadelphia University and has already garnered impressive local and national accolades. She described it as a "green" Yelp that enables consumers to spend their money according to their values by identifying businesses that employ sustainable practices. Most of the 3,000 businesses on Milkcrate were vetted by one of four partnering agencies, but businesses can apply to undergo an assessment to be certified. Few national chains are included. Milkcrate has also served as the official app for events, such as the Philadelphia Food and Farm Fest, and is expanding into other cities, such as Denver and Boston. Her revenue is derived from approved businesses paying for premium memberships that place them in the top of their categories. Although currently most of the businesses are in Philadelphia, Ms. Berman wants to expand into the suburbs. She invited members to submit potential businesses for consideration. Mr. Ahrens suggested featuring Milkcrate as a Sustainable Sunday Tip on the Township Facebook page.
3. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2015 meeting; seconded by Ms. Foggie. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. **Committee Reports:**

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens did not submit a report but announced the distribution of the EAC e-Newsletter just after last month's meeting. It was opened by 41% of recipients, but several School District emails bounced back. The School District email system may block group emails. Ms. Gibson suggested he contact those emails to request a different address.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy submitted her report (see attached). Ms. Duffy and Ms. Rosenberg staffed a table at the Glenside Arts Festival on April 25, 2015, offering information about recycling, water conservation tips and sewer rent fees changes that took effect in 2015. The Cheltenham High School Environmental Club collected over \$200 in the raffle of a painted rain barrel. Mr. Ahrens asked for her report on Earth Day activities to include in the e-Newsletter.

Regarding the possibility of becoming a bird town, Ms. Duffy had questions for Mr. Altadonna, starting with the annual \$500 fee. Mr. Altadonna said the fee policy was being reviewed. Ms. Duffy also wanted to know if the EAC would be expected to provide volunteers for bird town activities. Audubon members would be available for activities. Mr. Altadonna described current efforts in Abington to target school clubs and recommended students make the presentation to the Board of Commissioners, which worked well in Abington. Mr. Altadonna will meet with the Water and Ecology Committee for additional discussion.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). She added that she had attended the Montgomery County Walkability meeting earlier today that will focus on Cheltenham Elementary School. Discussions focused on improving the mechanics, such as additional or improved sidewalks, but she hoped it would expand to include concepts like walking in organized groups to help parents feel their children would be safe walking to school.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: No report.

5. Old Business:

A. Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park: Ms. Rosenberg reported that Sustainable Cheltenham will be similar to last year, with student presentations, a bike corral and Sustainability Awards. The raffle of a custom-painted rain barrel is still under discussion, pending resolution of how the proceeds would be distributed. With a focus on water conservation this year, Ms. Rosenberg has reached out to Home Depot, Grove Plumbing Supply and a Fix a Leak program about attending the event. The Fix a Leak program, however, entails a fee of \$250 for one hour. Ms. Foggie commented that the short duration meant few attendees would see it. Mr. Altadonna suggested contacting the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology for a student presentation. Ms. Rosenberg will also prepare an Annual Sustainability Report for the event.

B. Sustainability Awards: Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to present 2015 Sustainability Awards to the seven candidates listed below; seconded by Ms. Foggie. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Community Supported Agriculture at Congregation Kol Ami
- Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc.
- Friends of High School Park
- Glenside Farmers' Market
- Elcy's Café
- Judith Gratz
- Dottie Baumgarten

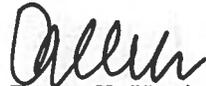
Ms. Rosenberg will get the presentation times to Ms. Gibson so invitations can be sent to the recipients and to the Commissioners.

C. Discussion about Educating Other Citizen Advisory Committees: No report.

D. Draft Zoning Code: In the "Criteria for Granting Special Exceptions and Variances," Mr. Stamm recommended incorporating the following underlined text: "Be in accordance with

the Cheltenham Township Comprehensive Plan and the Sustainability Goals approved by the Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners.” [The Township Manager recommends rewording the inserted text as “and the Goals of the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan adopted by the Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners.”] Mr. Ahrens was concerned the reference may be too vague for the Zoning Hearing Board to apply. He will set up a meeting to include Mr. Stamm, Ms. Foggie and Mr. Pransky, who is also a member of the Select Committee that is drafting the new Zoning Code, to craft an appropriate EAC recommendation.

6. **Adjournment:** Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer